

**I PROPOSE TO CANCEL CLAIMS 1-16 AND SUBMIT THE  
FOLLOWING NEW CLAIMS**

**17. (New) A post comprising:**

**a. a base having a bottom surface adapted for contact with a floor and a top surface, the base having a mounting opening in the top surface, the opening having a tapered configuration with a predetermined depth and an inside surface with an inside dimension which increases from a low dimension at its bottom to a higher dimension at its top;**

**b. a tube adapted for mounting in the base, the tube having a predetermined length with a bottom end for placement in the base opening, the tube bottom end being constructed of a wall with an outside surface and inside surface defining a hollow interior, the bottom end having a tapered configuration with inside and outside dimensions that decrease towards the bottom, the outside dimension of the bottom end being substantially equivalent to the inside dimension of the opening of the base whereby the outside surface of the bottom end engages the inside surface of the opening; and**

**c. clamping member adapted for placement in and engaging the hollow interior of the tube at the bottom end thereof, the clamping member having a tapered configuration with a predetermined length with an outside dimension that is substantially equivalent to the inside dimension of the tube, whereby the clamping member outside surface engages the inside surface of the hollow interior of the tube bottom end to mount the tube to the base.**

**18. (New) The post of claim 17 wherein the configuration of the base opening, post bottom end and clamping member are frustoconical.**

**19. (New) The post of claim 17, wherein the base further has a boss extending upwardly from the top surface, the mounting opening being disposed in the boss.**

**20. (New) The post of claim 17, further comprising a fastener connecting the clamping member to the base.**

**21. (New) The post of claim 20, wherein the fastener is a bolt having a head contacting the base and a threaded end extending upwardly to engage a complementary threaded aperture in the clamping member.**

**22. (New) The post of claim 20, wherein the fastener is a bolt has a head contacting the clamping member and a threaded end extending downwardly to engage a complementary threaded aperture in the base.**

**23. (New) The post of claim 17, wherein the post is part of a queue management system, the post extending upwardly from the base and having at least one retractable barrier element connected to it.**